Remarks

Claims 1, 5-6, 9-15, 17-19, and 23-24 remain pending. Claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 23, and 24 have been amended and claims 2-4, 7-8, 16, 20-22, and 25 have been cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance are requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks below. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the objections and rejections and reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-18, and 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Thompson et al. (U.S. 2002/0078150), hereafter, "Thompson." Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Thompson in view of Orbach et al. (U.S. 2004/0125932), hereafter, "Orbach." Claims 13 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Thompson in view of Kobrosly et al. (U.S. 7,139,379), hereafter, "Kobrosly." These rejections are defective because the references taken alone or in any combination, fail to disclose each and every feature of the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a).

Regarding independent claim 1 (see also independent claim 15), Thompson fails to disclose, *inter alia*, "each instant messaging client application including a graphical user interface comprising: a system for indicating to the instant messaging server that a participant wishes to speak in the teleconference; and a system for displaying information received via one or more

instant message from the instant messaging server: details of each participant in the teleconference; and a status of the telephone connection of each participant in the teleconference." Specifically, in the rejection of dependent claims 4 and 7 (now cancelled and incorporated into independent claim 1), the Examiner alleges that the above-referenced features are disclosed in paragraphs [0066], [0069] and [0091] of Thompson. (Office Action at pages 3-5). However, Applicants submit that the cited paragraphs of Thompson, as well Thompson taken in its entirety, fail to disclose at least the above-referenced features. For instance, although Thompson discloses the provision of member preference and presence information to each VTE client (see, e.g., Thompson, paragraph [0066]), such information is not provided via instant messages, through an instant messaging server, to each instant messaging client application. Further, Thompson does not disclose a system for indicating to an instant messaging server that a participant wishes to speak in a teleconference. Rather, Thompson merely discloses notifying a user of an event such as a change in the status of a selected team member communication device (e.g., computer is in use, telephone is idle, PDA is in use, etc.). (Thompson at paragraphs [0066], [0091]).

Orbach and Kobrosly fail to remedy the deficiencies of Thompson.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 15 and their corresponding dependent claims are allowable.

Applicants submit that each of the pending claims is patentable for one or more additional unique features. To this extent, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's interpretation of the claimed subject matter or the references

used in rejecting the claimed subject matter. These features have not been separately addressed herein for brevity. However, Applicants reserve the right to present such arguments in a later response should one be necessary.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/ John A. Merecki /

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